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COMMUNION SERVICE

JAMES T. WOOLLEY

## SOME RECENT CRAFT WORK IN BALTIMORE

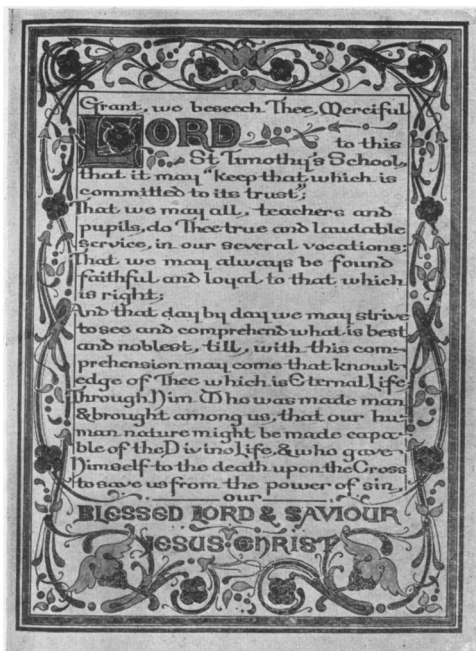
BY EMILY E. GRAVES

**D**URING the past year there have been produced in Baltimore some specimens of handicraft of much interest, while others, though not made in Baltimore, serve equally to show the development of local appreciation of the arts and crafts since they are the results of orders given through the Handicraft Club of Baltimore.

The Communion Service illustrated was made by Mr. James T. Woolley, and designed by Mr. Frank E. Cleveland, both of Boston. It was a memorial service for the Mission Church at Nenana, Alaska, and the order was placed under the special direction of the Secretary of the Handicraft Club, Miss Emily Graves. Hundreds of Indians gather for the Church services at special seasons, and the flagons were in consequence made of unusual size. The silver and gold used were donated—in the words of the inscription, “A gift from many, in loving memory of many of the

faithful.” It seems, therefore, especially unfortunate that the ship on which this gift was being carried to Alaska was wrecked, and it is not yet known whether recovery is possible. The simplicity of the design and the massive strength of the workmanship made it particularly fitted for the service of the Church in this outpost of civilization.

The “*Histoire de Louys XI*,” bound by Miss Eleanore Sweringen of Baltimore, was published in 1610 in Paris, by Pierre Mettayer, who had as partner Clovis Eve, one of the famous Eve family noted in the history of French tooling. When Miss Sweringen found this book, in London, the leather was gone, but the tools had been so deeply impressed that the design of the original cover had been left on the boards. Using this as an indication, Miss Sweringen made her design as nearly like the original as possible, and it is quite in the manner of a simple example of Eve’s



PAGE FROM BOOK ILLUMINATED BY MARGARET E. HAYDOCK AND MARGARET P. GRAFFLIN

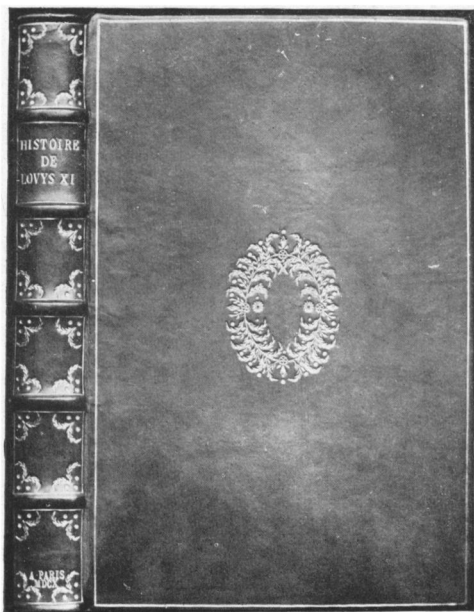
work. To preserve further the old character of the book, Miss Sweringen bound it in calf, staining it by hand, which gives a richness of tone and pleasing unevenness of color much like that produced by the tanning of old days.

The illuminated book and box, here reproduced, combined to make a singularly appropriate gift from their Alumnæ to the Misses Carter, formerly the heads of St. Timothy's School at Catonsville, Maryland. The book was illuminated on vellum by Miss Margaret E. Haydock and Miss Margaret P. Grafflin of Baltimore. It contains the school Psalm, hymn and prayer, and a letter to the Misses Carter with the signatures of the Alumnæ. Each page is richly ornamented with medallions of special personal import set in borders of Italian Renaissance design.

To hold this book Mr. Conrad Scapechi of New York has made a box, original in design, but reviving in style of ornament and methods of execution the jewel chests of the middle ages. Indeed, in this box, Mr. Scapechi has followed

exactly the rules and suggestions of Cennino Cennini, a Sienese artist of the fourteenth century, in his treatise on the Arts. Flat strips of ornament in *graffito*, in dull red and blue on a gold ground, are relieved by incised tooling, and by raised work in *gesso duro* and *pastighaggio* of toned and burnished gold. A panel, painted in tempore and set in the lid, represents the calling of St. Timothy by St. Paul. On one end is a shield bearing the Carter arms and on the other a similar shield with the arms of the school. In front is the motto, "The memorial of thine abundant kindness shall be showed." The whole gift expresses so much more thought and greater personal interest than the usual monumental piece of repoussé silver and has such intrinsic beauty that it might well serve as a suggestion and model for other commemorations.

The variety of these examples, and their successful treatment, are evidences of the growth of the demand for art and of the increase of satisfying artistic production in handicraft. In the stimulation of such development the Handicraft Club of Baltimore is of very real service to the community.



BOOK BINDING BY ELEANORE SWERINGEN